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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd
Chief Clerk and Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

**Re: Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate
Schedules and Tariffs and Request for Accounting Order
Docket No. 2018-318-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

In accordance with an agreement made by Don Schneider during Duke Energy Progress, LLC's ("DEP" or the "Company") most recent rate case, and pursuant to Commission Order No. 2019-341 which states "DEP shall provide an annual report to this Commission on quantifiable customer savings related to AMI meter deployment,"¹ the Company hereby provides the following regarding its smart meter deployment.

DEP has estimated costs it otherwise would have incurred, but for the deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI"), for calendar year 2020. Deployment of AMI has enabled DEP to fulfill customer orders for connection, disconnection, and reconnection remotely rather than by conducting field visits. The Company estimates the costs it avoided due to remote customer order fulfillment were approximately \$322,000 in 2020. The costs were lower than anticipated due to the suspension of non-pay disconnects during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Company has also estimated operational savings in costs it otherwise would have incurred for monthly meter reading. Deployment of AMI technology now enables the Company to read meters remotely, reducing manual and drive-by meter reading costs. DEP estimates the costs it avoided in 2020 due to the ability to read meters remotely on a monthly basis totaled approximately \$494,000.

Sincerely,

Heather Shirley Smith

C: Parties of Record (via e-mail)

¹ Order No. 2019-341 at p. 111.